(c) what steps are being taken to protect the local automobile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) To draft an auto policy committee comprising representatives of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Surface Transport, Ministry of Agriculture and Automotive Research Association of India, Pune has been constituted on 10.7.2000 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).

(b) to (e) The group is expected to complete its task with despatch and make recommendations keeping in view the local automobile industry. Implementation of its recommendations will arise after these have been made and considered by Government.

Trucks produced by Indian Industries

52. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of trucks produced by Indian Industries in the last five years; and

(b) whether such production is the index of the industrial activity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Production of Heavy and Medium Commercial Vehicles during the last five years is as follows:

Year	Production in Nos.
1995-96	129651
1996-97	155696
1997-98	95854
1998-99	80528
1999-2000	112308

(b) The index of industrial production in the country is determined by the actual production of a large number of items including commercial vehicles.

Closing down of Hindustan Photo Films, Ooty

53. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Photo Films, Ooty is going to be closed down;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government could not find a joint venture partner;

(c) if answer to part (b) be in the negative, why did joint venture partner backed out; and

(d) what steps Government would take to protect the interests of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The case of Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd., Ooty (HPF) is before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). This Ministry have been making efforts in concert with the Operating Agency (ICICI), the Consultant and the management of HPF to convert the Company into a Joint Venture (JV). Although a JV partner could not be located so far, this Ministry is still making efforts to revive the Company.

(d) In the event of any disinvestment or formation of a joint venture the interests of the employees will be taken care of through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Setting up Restructuring Commission

54. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises has proposed for setting up of a restructuring Commission to plan a long term strategy for public sector undertakings to bridge the fiscal deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;